



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 30, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lindsay Abate  
Office of Management and Budget Desk Officer

FROM: Craig Pooler *Craig Pooler*  
Director, GEAR UP and Talent Search Division

RE: Emergency request for Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval:  
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate  
Programs (GEAR UP) Match Waiver Request Form

Pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 CFR 1320, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) requests that the following collection of information, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Match Waiver Request Form, be processed in accordance with section 1320.13 Emergency Processing. The Department has determined that this information must be collected prior to the expiration of time periods established under Part 1320 and that this information is essential to ED's ability to effectively implement the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and address the disruptions posed by the Novel (new) Coronavirus ("2019-nCoV").

Section 3518(b) of the CARES Act provides statutory authority for full match waivers. The proposed form will collect information needed to determine GEAR UP grantees' eligibility for a waiver of the match requirement. The Department has estimated 30 minutes of burden per respondent to complete and submit the form.

In order to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on this form, the Department plans to publish a notice with a 14-day emergency comment period and a 60-day regular comment period as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d). The Department will respond to comments received during these two periods.

If this emergency collection is not approved, the Department will not be able to extend the match requirement flexibilities authorized by the CARES Act to GEAR UP grantees. Therefore, the Department is requesting approval no later than April 15, 2021 in order to implement this authority in a timely manner.

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